

lower file

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

13 FEBRUARY 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Venezuela

a. Caracas early last night reported everything calm. There has been no information since to change this.

[REDACTED] The government's redoubled security precautions may have thrown them off balance. Or they may be saving their punch for today--the fourth anniversary of Betancourt's inauguration.

c. Betancourt retains the support of most of the armed forces and we believe they can prevent disorders from threatening the survival of his government. The President also has strong support from organized labor, the peasants, and most of the business sector.

d. Thus, barring Betancourt's assassination, we feel the government can keep the situation under control.

2. Cuba

a. The Soviet freighter L'gov, now in mid-Atlantic on route to Cuba, has declared a commercial cargo, but

[REDACTED] suspect she may be carrying some military cargo.

(Cont'd)

b. Jet operations at Holguin Airfield in northern Oriente Province may increase in the near future. [redacted]
[redacted] construction of more earth-covered arched revetments there of a type used to house MIGs. Eighteen such shelters were noted at Holguin
[redacted]

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3. Iraq

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b. Authorities are cracking down on pro-UAR activities and have banned distribution of pictures of Nasir. Cairo continues to play it cool
[redacted]

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c. [redacted]
[redacted] Kurdish chief-tan Barzani has called for a cessation of hostilities. Baghdad will respond eagerly in order to eliminate one of the gravest liabilities of the Qasim period.

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d. The Baghdad police [redacted] instructed [redacted] to treat all people in "a gentlemanly manner." [redacted] "forbade absolutely" the humiliation of political detainees, because this harmed the revolution's principles.

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e. [redacted] no one was to be arrested except on the order of competent legal quarters and no arrests could be made on the basis of unsubstantiated information, complaints, or calumnies.

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4. South Korea

a. The leadership crisis may not yet be over.

b. Kim Chong-pil, former security chief, tells us that Pak has become disheartened and has firmly decided to withdraw from politics.

c. Kim urged ambassador Berger to try to dissuade Pak and to boost Pak's chances of winning the election by announcing that "there is a prospect of further US aid."

d. The Embassy is not yet sure of what Kim may be up to or what his motives are in trying to get the US embroiled in the current political maneuvering.

e. The country's dismal economic performance, most noticeable in inflation and a rice shortage, are not helping matters for the regime

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5. Bulgaria

a. Some 200 African students in Sofia were given a practical lesson with the ways of a Communist state when, last week, an all-African student union they set up was banned by the police and their leaders arrested.

b. A series of protest demonstrations with more arrests has ensued as the Africans began attracting enough Bulgarian sympathizers to force the militia to crack down in earnest.

6. Common Market

a. On 8 February, Bonn informally gave London a compromise proposal looking to full British membership in three or four years. It included linking the UK with the Common Market in a customs union covering industrial commodities and a gradual alignment during the interim of agricultural policies. Also envisaged were some arrangements already agreed to before the Brussels collapse and strengthened political ties through WEU.

b. The British and the Germans are to talk again in Bonn on this proposal later this month after London has had a chance mull it over.

c. After a conversation with Common Market President Hallstein on Monday, Fanfani told Ambassador Reinhardt he had been shocked by Hallstein's attitude, which he described as being tantamount to acceptance of De Gaulle's position. Fanfani said Hallstein considered the question of UK membership dead.

7. Yemen

a. The military situation has not changed. Egyptian troops have scored no recent successes, and it appears that Marshal Amer's "major offensive," if there is to be one, is yet to come.

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NOTES

- A. Syria In the aftermath of the Iraqi coup, Prime Minister Azm's position is weaker than ever. Six members of his coalition government resigned over the week end, and to stay in power Azm will now have to do considerably more than the minor cabinet reshuffling he had originally planned.
- B. Afro-Asian Conference The Soviets [redacted]
[redacted] were upstaged by the Chinese delegation which harped on racial issues and the need for violent revolution.
- C. Cyprus Greek-Turkish friction is on the upswing and could erupt in serious rioting, particularly should Greek Cypriot officials carry out their threats to eject Turkish squatters from "municipal" properties long controlled by the Turkish communities. Police and the gendarmerie are on 24-hour alert.
- D. India India's Communist Party leadership, its secretary general having resigned last week because of conflicting pressures, has now come out strongly on the side of the USSR in the Sino-Soviet dispute and has again condemned Peiping for its aggression against India.

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E. Laos Tensions, already high in the Plaine des Jarres, will be increased by the assassination yesterday of Kong Le's right hand commander there, Colonel Ketsana. Kong Le blames "evildoers who have ill intentions toward neutrality" by which we are sure he means the Pathet Lao, who have made several earlier attempts to get Ketsana.